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<p>Tiivistelmä-Referat-Abstract</p> <p>This study is investigates changes in strategic culture in South Africa. The focus is on two White Papers on Defence, of 1977 and 1996. A strategic culture –based approach is employed. Strategic culture refers to a relatively enduring consensus about values, beliefs and beliefs concerning the use of force. A national strategy community consists of people who guide and lead defence policy, and who share a common strategic culture. Strategic culture is studied here with a specific focus on national strategic communities, defence doctrines and civil-military relations.</p> <p>The 1977 White Paper introduces the doctrine of total strategy that defined South Africa’s defence policy until the late 1980s. Its starting point was South Africa’s rapidly deteriorating security situation. Internal and external pressure directed at South Africa’s policy of separate development or apartheid was interpreted as a ‘total onslaught’ by Soviet Union and its allies, with the aim of establishing majority rule sympathetic to the Soviet Union. To counter this threat a ‘total strategy’ that included military means was devised.</p> <p>Membership in the national strategic community was restricted on ethnic, racial and political grounds. Security policies were informed by strategic scholarship that was developed in a closed environment, mainly within the defence establishment and Afrikaans-language universities. Civil-military relations were characterized by a process of rapid militarization. Defence doctrine relied on total strategy and counter-revolutionary warfare.</p> <p>The 1996 White Paper aims at the demilitarization of security policies. The transition to democracy in South Africa had begun in 1990 and culminated in the country’s first democratic elections in 1994. The basic premise of defence planning was that the country was not faced with any military threat in the foreseeable future. The country had, however, inherited from the former government an oversized defence force and an equally immense defence industry. The downsizing of both was imperative. In light of the government’s objectives of social-economic development the resources consumed by the defence sector were a serious problem.</p> <p>The national strategic community was defined on normative grounds: the Department of Defence sought the cooperation of civil society actors who, in the main, had a background in critical security studies. Regarding civil-military relations the White Paper stresses civil supremacy over armed forces, and the role of the Parliament in directing defence policy. Defence doctrine is based on the concepts of human security and common security; both reflect a broad security agenda.</p>			
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